

Applicant Name	East Bench Irrigation District (EBID)
Project Name	East Bench Irrigation District – Canal Lining

Project Abstract

The EBID is located near the Town of Dillon. The district is requesting funds through the Renewable Resources Grant and Loan Program (RRGL) for design and construction of canal lining in the main irrigation canal. The goal of the project is to provide EBID with an irrigation infrastructure improvement that will conserve water resources and increase crop yields. This project was conceptualized by EBID as the first step in long-range planning and modernization efforts, and was initiated through an RRGL planning grant.

In compliance with RRGL requirements, an engineering study was undertaken to investigate the existing infrastructure and operational controls of EBID and evaluate irrigation system alternatives. The primary recommendation of the study is to install liner in 1,175 feet of the main canal so the district can conserve water resources, reduce canal seepage, and increase crop production. Currently, there is not enough irrigation water to satisfy the crop water consumption requirements. The seepage loss is about 10 cubic feet per second (cfs) or 20 acre-feet per day, or 2,585 acre-feet annually. A direct consequence of the water shortage is a reduction in crop yields of over 1,293 acres. The result: an estimated annual revenue loss to the community of approximately \$387,900.

Implementation of the proposed project will potentially result in significant economic benefit to the community. Improved canal efficiency and decreased canal seepage will increase irrigation delivery and will allow EBID to provide more water to water users during the most critical time of the irrigation season. If increased water supply through improved canal efficiency can increase annual revenue by 50%, the additional \$193,950 in revenue will potentially generate an additional \$678,825 to \$1,357,650 in annual economic activity.